

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07504 081344Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05 MCT-02  
SY-05 /072 W

-----129784 090302Z /23

R 081201Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9708  
INFO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7504

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, IR  
SUBJ: ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN BY RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS

1. ONE OF THE MORE DISTURBING ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MORE EXTREME RELIGIOUS GROUPS THAT HAS COME TO LIGHT IS A VICIOUS ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN. WE FIRST HEARD OF THIS DEVELOPMENT A FEW WEEKS AGO BUT, IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF HARD EVIDENCE, WE DID NOT REPORT ON IT. ALSO, ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL SOURCES AFFIRMED THAT THE PROPAGANDA WAS ANTI-ZIONIST (AGAINST ISRAEL'S POLICY RE OCCUPIED LANDS) AND NOT DIRECTED AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THI FACILE-- AND SUSPICIOUS AT THE TIME-- EXPLANATION HAS BEEN BELIED BY A NUMBER OF TRACTS CURRENTLY BEING PASSED OUT IN TEHRAN AND ELSEWHERE.

2. A JUNE 2 FLYER WHICH WE JUST OBTAINED READS AS FOLLOWS:  
"WARNING TO ALL THE JEWS OF IRAN. YOU BLOOD-SUCKING PEOPLE WHO HAVE GATHERED IN OUR ISLAMIC COUNTRY AND ARE BLEEDING EVERYONE OF US MOSLEMS BY EXTORTING MONEY-LENDING INTEREST, THEFT AND SWINDLING AND SENDING THE WEALTH COLLECTED IN THIS WAY TO THE ZIONIST COUNTRY OF ISRAEL, AND BY APPROPRIATING THE HOUSES OF HOMELESS MOSLEMS ARE CAUSING DAILY INCREASE OF HOUSING COSTSS\* BE AWARE NOW THAT YOUR GOLDEN DAYS ARE OVER, AND YOU ARE HEREBY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07504 081344Z

WARNED TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY AS SOON AS YOU CAN; OTHERWISE WE WILL MASSACRE ALL JEWS, BIG AND SMALL, AND WILL LOOT YOUR ILLEGALLY GAINED RICHES\*  
"A HITLER IS A NECESSITY ONCE IN A WHILE TO EXTERMINATE THE JEWS FROM THE EARTH'S FACE SO THAT OUR ARAB BROTHERS- IN -FAITH MAY AT LAST LIVE IN PEACE.  
"YOU HAVE BUT A LITTLE TIME TO ESCAPE\*

THE NATIONAL FRONT OF YOUNG MOSLEMS IN IRAN"

WE UNDERSTAND THAT A PARTICULARLY VILE PAMPHLET DRAWING UPON THE MOSQUE SPEECHES OF AYATOLLAH NOURI OF QOM IS BEING DISTRIBUTED (WE EXPECT TO GET A COPY SOON). ALSO, A FEW WEEKS AGO THE HOME OF A PROMINENT JEWISH DOCTOR IN HAMADAN WAS BOMBED WITH SERIOUS INJURIES TO A SON, AND A SYNAGOGUE WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED IN THE RECENT TROUBLES IN ISFAHAN.

3. THE ISRAELI MISSION IN TEHRAN IS, OF COURSE, ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO THIS MATTER AND HAS DRAWN THE EVENTS AND TRACTS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS NERVOUS EMIGRATION HAS INCREASED AND OTHERS ARE TRANSFERRING ASSETS ABROAD.

4. THE ANTI-JEWISH EFFORT IS PARALLELED BY RENEWAL OF EFFORTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE BAHAI FAITH AND MANY OF THE BANKS AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS DAMAGED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE OWNED BY BAHAIS OR PERSONS SUSPECTED OF BEING SECRET BAHAIS. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL BAHAI CONTACTS REPORT INDIVIDUAL HARASSMENT ON A SCALE NOT SEEN SINCE THE EARLY 60'S.

5. COMMENT: THE INCREASED EMIGRATION OF IRANIAN JEWS PARALLELS THE SWELL OF DEPARTURES WE HAVE NOTICED OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 07504 081344Z

ARMENIANS AND ASSYRIANS--MANY TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN LONG ESTABLISHED. THE MINORITIES, IN SUM, ARE AFRAID THAT THE CURRENT PUBLIC PROMINENCE AND STRENGTH OF THE MORE EXTREME ISLAMIC CONSERVATIVES PORTEND A DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD FOR NON-MUSLIMS. MOREOVER, THANKS TO IRAN'S OIL-FED PROSPERITY, MANY NOW HAVE THE CAPITAL TO RESETTLE.

6. IRAN HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A RELIGIOUSLY PLURALISTIC COUNTRY WHERE THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES HAVE LIVED TOGETHER EASILY. IRANIANS FOR YEARS HAVE TAKEN PRIDE IN PERSIAN TOLERANCE OF MANY FAITHS (EXCEPT FOR BAHAIS) WHICH HAS BEEN IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO THE PRACTICES IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. THIS CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS DISTRESSING AND ABHORRENT TO MOST OF OUR EDUCATED FRIENDS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO SIMPLE ANSWER. A CRACKDOWN ON THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS KIND OF PROPAGANDA WOULD LIKELY NOT BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT WAS BUT RATHER WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A DIRECT ATTACK ON ALL THE RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP. THE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS WILL BRING OUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE SEAMIER SIDE OF

IRANAIN POLITICS.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT SO FAR THE ANTI-SEMITISM CAMPAIGN INVOLVES ONLY A FRINGE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THIS EXTREME FACTION IS TIED DIRECTLY TO AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI (IN EXILE IN IRAQ) WHO IN RECENT INTERVIEWS HAS SHOWN A VERY STRONG ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS. KHOMEINI HAS CLOSE TIES WITH THE PLO AND OTHER PALESTINIAN GROUPS, AS WELL AS WITH THE TUDEH PARTY AND TERRORIST GROUPS IN IRAN. THE JUNE 2 FLYER QUOTED ABOVE WAS DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO A GOOD SOURCE, BY A GROUP WHICH TAKES ITS GUIDANCE FROM KHOMEINI LOYALISTS IN TEHRAN AND HAS SOUGHT TO STRIKE

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEHRAN 07504 081344Z

UP TROUBLE ON ANY PRETEXT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014